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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/862,830	05/22/2001	John Gregory Schroeder	AA471	8865

27752 7590 08/17/2005

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION
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EXAMINER

DOUYON, LORNA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1751

DATE MAILED: 08/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/862,830	Applicant(s) SCHROEDER ET AL.	
	Examiner Lorna M. Douyon	Art Unit 1751	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to ~~communication(s) filed on~~ RCE filed June 10, 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,7 and 31-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,7 and 31-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 10, 2005 has been entered.
2. Claims 1, 2, 7, 31, 32 and 33 are pending.
3. The rejection of claims 1, 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is withdrawn in view of applicants' amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
5. Claims 1, 2, 7 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ehrlich (US Patent No. 4,099,912).

Ehrlich teaches a plurality of separate units of different detergent composition components for washing laundry, the units being of tablet, envelope, packet, capsule or other container form having a weight of 5 to 30 grams and a volume of 4 to 20 milliliters (see

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abstract). Ehrlich also teaches that the separate components include a heavy duty detergent composition, an enzyme presoak, a fabric softening composition or a bleach, in all of which various solid or liquid components can be conveniently separately packaged for admixture together of premeasured amounts in accordance with manufacturer's instructions so as to obtain the most desired effects under particular operating conditions (underlining supplied, see col. 11, lines 42-56). Such compositions can be made with all of the component parts thereof separately packaged or packaged in subcombinations, as liquids (solutions or dispersions), powders or unitary solids. Preferably, such as a liquid is a nonionic detergent, a perfume, an aqueous solution of detergent, builder salt or other component or a mixture thereof (underlinings supplied, see col. 11, lines 56-65). In Example 3, Ehrlich teaches different detergent components wherein liquid or tacky components are packed in polyvinyl-alcohol-polyvinyl acetate copolymer water soluble thin film packets, readily disintegratable paper envelopes or gelatin capsules. The formulas of this example are packaged in cardboard dispensing cartons or plastic containers, wherein they are either intermixed or separately compartmented (see col. 14, line 55 to col. 15, line 35). Ehrlich also teaches that perfume is normally present in all of the tablets so as to increase the pleasant aroma of the product and all components employed (see col. 11, lines 56-65). Ehrlich, however, fails to specifically disclose perfume as the coordinated element.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to prepare a plurality of separate units of different detergent composition wherein one unit may be a packet containing a liquid which may be a combination of nonionic surfactant and perfume, and another unit may be a tablet comprising perfume because the teachings of Ehrlich encompass these aspects.

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6. Claims 1, 7, 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Folland (US Patent No. 5,064,073) in view of Melville (US Patent No. 4,511,495).

Folland teaches a capsule with one piece construction which does not separate during operation, to provide a capsule with a hole that will accommodate a plastic cup insert containing a separate product for vending two products in one container, such as laundry detergent and dryer sheets (see col. 1, lines 27-33). For example, the capsule could contain a measured amount of laundry soap and the cup insert could contain a dryer sheet, the cup could be inserted into the capsule and both could be sealed with an easy-to-remove tape seal with a pull tab and this would be a means for providing laundry detergent in dormitories, apartment complexes, trailer parks and motels (see col. 2, lines 35-41). Folland, however, fails to specifically disclose the laundry detergent and dryer sheet each comprising a perfume wherein the perfume of the laundry detergent and the dryer sheet provide a consistent, additive and/or synergistic odor on a treated fabric article.

Melville teaches a tumble dryer product capable of depositing perfumes on fabric surfaces (see col. 1, lines 7-8). In one embodiment, a fabric conditioning composition comprising perfume is supported on a solid carrier such as a flexible substrate (see col. 1, line 51 to col. 2, line 24). Melville also teaches that formulations intended for the laundering of fabric will normally contain a perfume to provide a pleasant after smell on the laundered fabrics and that powder and liquid detergent formulations, rinse cycle formulations and tumble dryer products contain perfumes (see col. 1, lines 20-24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to reasonably expect the laundry detergent and dryer sheet in the capsule of Folland to

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each comprise perfume because it is known from Melville that formulations intended for laundering fabric like detergent formulations and tumble dryer products each contain perfumes which provide a pleasant after smell on the laundered fabrics.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicants' arguments filed June 10, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to the rejection based upon Ehrlich, Applicants argue that Ehrlich does not teach or suggest a liquid fabric conditioning composition applied to the fabric article during the rinse cycle.

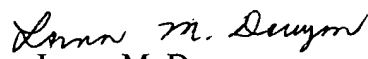
The Examiner respectfully disagrees with the above arguments because Ehrlich teaches in col. 11, lines 56-65 that liquids like nonionic detergent, a perfume, an aqueous solution of detergent, builder salt or other component or a mixture thereof can be separately packaged for admixture together. In col. 2, lines 3-17, Ehrlich teaches that the major inventive concept is that the components of detergent compositions are separately tableted or produced in convenient units so that the consumer, following the manufacturer's instructions, can formulate her own detergent composition so as to make it most suitable for washing the particular laundry at hand, and in the preferred readily dispensed tablet, envelope, packet or capsule forms, the present units are readily packaged, filled into a dispensing article, dispensed and used without the need for the consumer to purchase a large number of different formulations, and the use of the different detergent composition components allows sequential additions of these to the washing machine in those instances where this is preferable.

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lorna M. Douyon whose telephone number is (571) 272-1313. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 8:00AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on (571) 272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Lorna M. Douyon
Primary Examiner
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